

Education: 1974–1978, City College of the City University of New York B.A. degree, cum laude.

1978–1981, University of Pennsylvania Law School, J.D. degree.

Bar Admittance: 1982, Pennsylvania.

Experience: 1981–1983, Legal Aid of Chester County, Staff Attorney.

1983–1990, Nester, Nester & Sanchez Partner.

1983–1997, County of Chester Public Defender's Office, Senior Trial Attorney, 1993–1997, Trial Attorney, 1983–1993.

1990–1997, Sole Proprietor.

1997, MacElree, Harvey, Gallagher, Featherman & Sebastian, Trial Attorney.

1998–present, Chester County Court of Common Pleas, Judge.

#### ROBERT H. PERRY—NEVADA TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Robert H. Perry, who has been recognized as Nevada Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association.

Mr. Perry grew up in Topeka, KS, and attended the United States Naval Academy. Following his graduation, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. After he completed his military service, Mr. Perry worked in sales in Montana, and then returned to Kansas where he became a mentor for youth who were detained in the justice system. That whetted his interest in the legal system, and he decided to attend law school at the University of Kansas.

After he graduated law school, Mr. Perry moved to Nevada, where he became a successful prosecutor in the Washoe County District Attorney's Office. After several years, he rose to the position of Deputy District Attorney for the Criminal Division.

In 1976, Mr. Perry joined the law firm of Laxalt and Berry, and a few years later he formed a partnership with Richard Davenport. He ventured out on his own in 1991, forming Robert H. Perry, Ltd., and concentrated on civil trial work.

Since then Mr. Perry has dedicated himself to representing average citizens who have been harmed by the wrongful actions of others. Many times the party that did the harm was much more powerful than the victim—but in our legal system, it is possible for ordinary people to get justice, thanks to lawyers like Mr. Perry.

In 2001, Mr. Perry represented a young girl whose medical treatment had been delayed because the treating physician thought she was complaining in order to receive more painkillers. But in fact, she was really sick. When surgery was finally performed on this girl, only three feet of her small intestine remained. Today, and for the rest of her life, she must receive her nourishment intravenously.

Mr. Perry fought for her and she won the largest verdict for medical malpractice in Nevada history.

This is just an example of the kind of battles that Robert Perry wages on behalf of his clients. I salute him for his selection as Trial Lawyer of the Year,

and extend my best wishes for success in all his future ventures.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

In Wichita, KS, on June 29, 2001, a 58-year old openly gay hairdresser, Marcell Eads, was beaten and died from burns and smoke inhalation after the alleged bashers set his home on fire. Zachary Steward, 18, and Brandon Boone, 17, were arrested in connection with the crime. Steward claimed that Eads had made sexual advances toward him, prompting Boone to start beating Eads with a broomstick and later with the end of a table and a rock. The perpetrators accused each other of setting the fire that killed Eads, and both took credit for trying to put out the fire.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### FAITH IN ACTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in the 21st century, advances in medicine are allowing Americans to live longer than ever before. Today, the average American will live to be over 76 years old. As the collective age of society increases, so does the need for increased help, care, and support, as long-term illnesses and the frailties of age become the rule, not the exception. Faith in Action volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring that help is there for neighbors in need.

Faith in Action is a nationwide, interfaith coalition that works to help people with long-term health needs or disabilities maintain their independence by providing assistance with daily activities. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Faith in Action boasts 100,000 nationwide volunteers serving over 200,000 care recipients.

Through Faith in Action, Americans of every faith—including Catholics, Protestants, Hindus, Jews and Muslims—work together to improve the lives of their neighbors in need. Faith in Action volunteers help others maintain their independence by doing simple things: watering flowers, shopping for groceries, taking people to the doctor, and simply listening. Sometimes they open doors that people can't open on their own.

In my home State of Iowa, over 2,100 dedicated volunteers work in local pro-

grams to contribute approximately 315,000 volunteer hours per year—a service valued at nearly \$5.2 million.

But the value of Faith in Action is measured not by dollars and cents. Nor is the value measured by the number of volunteers, or the number of hours donated. The real value of Faith in Action is measured by the warm smiles of gratitude that line the faces of those whose lives have been enriched by the kind touch of a stranger.

Fred Jones is a man who knows firsthand the value of Faith in Action. Fred lives with his wife in the rural farmhouse where he was born, on the outskirts of Parnell, IA. Fred is, by any measure, a big man—standing 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighing over 200 pounds. Twelve years ago, Fred had a major stroke—a stroke that left half of his body paralyzed, and left Fred confined to a wheelchair in a home not built with wheelchairs in mind.

After the stroke, Fred's wife did not want to put him in a care facility and dreaded the thought of leaving the home where he was born. So at 76 years old and without any help, Mrs. Jones assumed the burden of lifting Fred up and down the 6-inch step from the front door of their home to the sidewalk below.

When Faith in Action was notified of the situation, the dedicated staff found resources to pay for the materials and a volunteer to install a wheelchair ramp for the elderly couple. Now Mrs. Jones is able to maneuver her husband in and out of their home with ease. Fred can now go to church, enjoy the sunshine, and watch his grandchildren play.

As an Iowan and a Member of Congress, I greatly appreciate the selfless acts of charity done by Faith in Action volunteers and I look forward to even greater accomplishments in the years to come.

#### THE CRISIS IN HAITI

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the lamentable situation in Haiti. After suffering political upheaval and widespread violence over the last few months, the Haitian people are now facing even more desperate circumstances.

During the last 2 weeks of May, floods devastated major sections of Haiti and parts of the Dominican Republic. The death toll in Haiti has reached nearly 2,600 people not including the missing and medical personnel expect that number to climb higher as the waters recede and reclamation efforts become possible.

In the immediate aftermath of the catastrophe, aid workers, Haitian officials, and foreign troops—including U.S. soldiers scrambled to prevent the crisis from worsening. They have been delivering emergency supplies of food and water, building temporary housing, and working to prevent the spread of disease.

I am concerned, however, by reports that the efforts are sorely under-funded